

Remarks/Arguments:

This Amendment adds no new claims, and is provided to amend claims 1 and 2. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-8 will be pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent no. 5,963,354 issued to Shiraishi et al.. The Examiner has stated that Shiraishi discloses a laser scanning unit comprising in part, a light source, a polygon mirror, an image focusing system and an incident optical system. Specifically, the Examiner has stated that the elements 9Y, 9M, 9C, 9B, 11Y, 11M, 11C, 11B disclose an incident optical system between the light source and the polygon mirror. More specifically, the Examiner has stated that the elements 9Y, 9M, 9C, 9B, 11Y, 11M, 11C, and 11B disclose an infinite optical system along a main scanning direction, and a finite optical system along a sub-scanning direction. Combined mirror 13 (13M, 13C and 13B) can also be included as it serves to bend the beams L passing through lens 9.

The incident optical system of the Shiraishi patent is arranged such that the beam L first passes through the finite focal lens 9, the hybrid cylinder lens 11, and is then reflected by the mirror 13 toward the polygon mirror 5. The finite focal lens 9 is a spherical glass lens that provides a beam convergence in both a main scanning and sub-scanning direction (see col. 6, lines 53-60, and col. 7, lines 6-9). The hybrid cylinder lens 11 provides further beam convergence in the sub-scanning direction only (see col. 6, lines 60-64).

Applicant claims an incident optical system comprising a first cylinder lens (see 104 in Applicant's figure 3) for converging light along the sub-scanning direction and directly transmitting light along the main scanning direction, and a second cylinder lens (see 107 in Applicant's figure 4) for converging light along the main scanning direction and directly transmitting light along the sub-scanning direction.

The Applicant's incident optical system is arranged such that the beam first passes through the first cylinder lens 104, to then be reflected by the mirrors 105 and 106, and then passes through the second cylinder lens 107 toward the polygon mirror 108.

The finite focal lens 9 of the Shiraishi patent is configured to provide a beam convergence *in both* a main scanning and sub-scanning direction, and the hybrid cylinder lens 11 is configured to provide further beam convergence in the sub-scanning direction *only*. In contrast, Applicant's amended claim 1 claims a first cylinder lens for converging light along the sub-scanning direction and directly transmitting light along the main scanning direction, and a second cylinder lens for converging light along the main scanning direction and directly transmitting light along the sub-scanning direction.

The Shiraishi patent does not disclose nor reasonably suggest an incident optical system having a first cylinder lens for converging light along the sub-scanning direction and directly transmitting light along the main scanning direction, and a second cylinder lens for converging light along the main scanning direction and directly transmitting light along the sub-scanning direction.

The Examiner further states that U.S. Patent no. 6,788,444 issued to Suzuki et al., discloses an incident optical system disposed between a light source and a polygon mirror, and comprising an infinite optical system along a main scanning direction and a finite optical system along a sub-scanning direction. Specifically, the Examiner points to cylinder lens 3 of the Suzuki patent which has a curvature surface 3a for converging light along the sub-scanning direction and directly transmitting light along the main scanning direction. However, the remaining coupling lens 2 is not configured for converging light along the main scanning direction and directly transmitting light along the sub-scanning direction. Accordingly, the Suzuki patent does not disclose nor reasonably suggest an incident optical system having a first cylinder lens for converging light along the sub-scanning direction and directly transmitting light along the main scanning direction, and a second cylinder lens for

Application No. 10/772,450
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converging light along the main scanning direction and directly transmitting light along the sub-scanning direction

In view of the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below

Respectfully submitted,

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